

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COMMITTEE: HEALTH SERVICES**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2010**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS SOKOL  
THOMAS  
TAYLOR  
LOEB  
MCDEVITT

REPRESENTING WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY:

BARBARA TAGGART, ADMINISTRATOR  
PATRICIA MURPHY, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF NURSING  
SKIP BEESAW, SR. BUILDING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC

REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:

PAT AUER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES  
SHARON SCHALDONE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOME CARE DIVISION  
GINELLE JONES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
TAMMIE DELORENZO, CLINICAL & FISCAL INFORMATICS COORDINATOR  
TAWN DRISCOLL, FISCAL MANAGER

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

VACANT - TOWN OF THURMAN  
SUPERVISOR CHAMPAGNE

FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN

PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY/ADMINISTRATOR

JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD

KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISOR KENNY

SUPERVISOR STRAINER

WILLIAM CASEY, SIEMENS INDUSTRY, INC.

EVELYN WOOD, TOWN OF THURMAN

DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*

CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting; subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Barbara Taggart, Administrator of Westmount Health Facility, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Taggart said the first item on the agenda was the presentation of the Year 5 Performance Assurance Report by William Casey, Performance Assurance Engineer for Siemens Industry, Inc. Copies of the Year 5 Performance Assurance Report were distributed to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Casey reviewed the Executive Summary located on page 4 of the Report and pointed out that the guaranteed savings for year five was \$200,276 and the verified savings for the year was \$248,907, an excess savings of \$48,631. He added that of the \$248,907 in yearly savings, \$139,034 was in energy savings and \$109,873 was in operational savings. He noted the accumulated guaranteed savings for 5 years was \$953,708 and the accumulated verified savings was \$1,095,236, an excess savings of \$141,528. Mr. Casey asked the Committee if they had any questions pertaining to the Report or the Cogeneration Project.

Mr. Taylor inquired as to the impact to the cost of cogeneration with the elimination of the former Department of Social Services (DSS) building. Mr. Casey responded that Siemens Industry, Inc. was looking at the possible impact and they would need to make some changes to the system in order to maximize efficiency. He explained the lower load caused the engines to operate less efficiently and necessitated the use of additional natural gas. He advised it had been necessary to operate two engines during the summer months in order to operate the chiller for Westmount Health Facility.

Mr. Loeb noted a memo had been received during the summer that highlighted an expected net loss to the Cogeneration Project of approximately \$250,000. Skip Beesaw, Sr. Building Maintenance Mechanic, explained that some of the loss had been anticipated due to the loss of the ability to bill the DSS for their electrical usage. Mr. Casey said if the cogeneration continued to operate as if the former DSS building was still in place then there was an anticipated loss due to inefficiency. Mr. Loeb stated that homeowners with cogeneration had the ability to sell excess energy back to National Grid and asked if Westmount Health Facility had the same ability. Mr. Casey responded that the system had been designed to be taken off the grid and in order to sell the excess back to National Grid, a premium would need to be paid in order to be placed back on the grid. Mr. Beesaw said the cost would be \$150,000 a year just to have the poles remain in place.

Discussion ensued pertaining to the efficiency of the engines.

Mr. Taylor inquired as to how the amount of guaranteed savings was determined and Mr. Casey responded it was determined by the contract with a yearly escalation of 2.5%. Mr. Taylor questioned how the annual savings would increase now that the former DSS building was offline and Mr. Casey responded the escalation was based on unit rates which was why the savings continued to increase. Mr. McDevitt asked if the amount of savings was a direct comparison of the cost before and after the project. Mr. Casey responded it was not possible to do a direct utility bill comparison with a cogeneration project and added the savings were calculated by a formula which was determined by the contract.

Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator, stated that going forward the project would not realize the same savings it had in the past. He said the power usage had been reduced and there would be a loss on the project due to the elimination of the former DSS building. He advised Siemens Industry, Inc. was minimizing the amount of loss by reducing the number of engines which were used at one time. Mr. Dusek explained they were looking into the possibility of connecting the buildings on the Municipal Center Campus to the cogeneration at Westmount Health Facility. He advised they would explore every possible way to maximize the benefits to the County from the Cogeneration Project. In the meantime, he added, they would attempt to minimize the losses as much as possible. Mr. Casey noted there would be no loss if the necessary changes were made to the system until it was possible to increase the capacity of the load on the cogeneration.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Loeb, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to authorize execution of the Client Acceptance of Year Five Annual Guaranteed Savings Report for Siemens Industry, Inc. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 15, 2010 Board meeting.*

Ms. Taggart requested transfers of funds totaling \$12,455, as follows:

- in the amount of \$12,410 from Westmount, Nursing Administration, Management & Supervision, Salaries-Regular (EF.60100.100 110) to Westmount, Nursing Administration, Management & Supervision, Salaries-Part Time (EF.60100.100 130) to reflect the salary of the Interim Director of Nursing; and
- in the amount of \$45 from Westmount, Fiscal Services, Office Supplies (EF.83110.5500 410) to Westmount, Fiscal Services, Office Equipment (EF.83100.5830 220) to reflect the purchase of a fiscal calculator for the Comptroller.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously to approve the request to transfer funds as outlined and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request for Transfer of Funds form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Taggart requested to increase the daily room rate at Westmount Health Facility from \$250 plus applicable 6% New York State (NYS) Assessment Tax (\$265) to \$259.43 plus applicable 6% NYS Assessment Tax (\$275) effective January 1, 2011. She noted a comparison of room rates of other facilities in the area was included in the agenda packet.

Motion was made by Mr. Loeb and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the request as presented.

Mr. Loeb questioned if the increase would be sufficient to cover the cost of caring for each resident. Ms. Taggart responded that increasing the daily room rate from \$265 to \$275 would generate an additional \$36,000 in revenue per year. She noted the cost of caring for each resident was \$288.45 per day and an increase in the daily room rate from \$265 to \$280 would generate an additional \$54,000 in revenue per year. She added she wanted to increase the daily room rate to an amount that would be sufficient for the next two years. She noted a daily room rate of \$275 was competitive with other local facilities. Mr. Loeb asked if the taxpayers subsidized the cost of operating the Facility and Mr. Geraghty replied affirmatively.

Mr. Loeb stated the daily room rate should be increased to an amount that covered the cost of resident care. Chairman Monroe advised there would still be a shortfall from the residents who received Medicaid or Medicare benefits. Mr. McDevitt asked how many residents were private pay and Ms. Taggart replied ten. Mr. Dusek interjected that Westmount Health Facility was an 80 bed Facility. Mr. McDevitt noted that 70 residents would not be impacted by an increase in the daily room rate. Mr. Dusek stated Westmount Health Facility operated at a loss and added part of the Facility's revenue included \$1.6 million from the State of which \$800,000 had to be paid back. Mr. McDevitt stated only the private pay residents who did not receive Medicaid or Medicare benefits would be impacted by the daily room rate increase. Mr. Dusek agreed that it was important to keep the room rate competitive with other local facilities as cost was a major consideration when choosing a facility.

Mr. Strainer inquired as to how many of the residents were out-of-County residents and Ms. Taggart responded the majority of the residents were from Warren County. Mr. Loeb advised it was necessary to control the revenue of the Facility and he recommended increasing the daily room rate to \$288. He stated that if it cost \$288 per day to care for the residents then it was appropriate to charge that amount. He said he understood that only ten residents would be impacted by the increase.

Mr. Loeb withdrew his motion and Mr. Thomas withdrew his second to the motion.

Motion was made by Mr. Loeb, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to increase the daily room rate at Westmount Health Facility from \$250 plus applicable 6% NYS Assessment Tax (\$265) to \$271.70 plus applicable 6% NYS Assessment Tax (\$288) effective January 1, 2011. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 15, 2010 Board meeting.*

Ms. Taggart said the next item on the agenda was to provide a Corporate Compliance update to the Committee. She noted a list of the Compliance Committee members and the Compliance Officer were listed in the agenda packet.

Pertaining to the Salary Comparison, Ms. Taggart reported, the yearly salaries were currently under budget. She noted the Facility had one vacant Registered Nurse (RN) position on the 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. shift; two vacant Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) positions on the 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. shift; one LPN on disability and one vacant Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) position on the 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift. She added that the Salary Comparison had included the Labor Day holiday.

Ms. Taggart stated the Facility had a committee that met on a monthly basis with Patricia Nenninger, Second Assistant County Attorney, to review accounts receivable. She added they recently reviewed the accounts receivable which were over 90 days past due. She advised there was one old account which was on a payment plan of \$25 per month. She said there were five private pay accounts that were currently in litigation. Mr. Thomas asked if any of the overdue accounts were from current residents and Ms. Taggart replied that some were.

Ms. Taggart recommended to the Committee that Susan Bartholomew, RN, be approved to fill the vacant position of DON. She added several interviews had been conducted and Ms. Bartholomew was determined to be the best candidate with ten years experience. She advised Ms. Bartholomew would assume the position effective October 13, 2010.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously that the vacant position of DON be filled as outlined above.

Mr. McDevitt stated that although he had voted in favor of the daily room rate increase at Westmount Health Facility, he wanted to note his opposition for the record. He said he would have preferred the room rate be increased to \$275 and he felt \$288 placed the Facility at the higher end of the scale. He commented he was concerned with the private pay residents' ability to pay the increase.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Pat Auer, Director of Public Health, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.

Ms. Auer requested authorization for contractual agreements to provide therapy services for a term commencing October 18, 2010 and terminating with 30 days written notice by either party at the agreed upon established per individual visit or meeting rate upon receipt of the required documentation for each visit, as follows:

- ▶ with Sara Nelson for speech language therapy services;
- ▶ with Meghan Hogan for speech language therapy services;
- ▶ with Lisa Cairnduff for physical therapy services; and
- ▶ with Heather Adamson Kennedy for speech language therapy services.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously to authorize the contractual agreements as outlined above. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the October 15, 2010 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested Committee approval for one Public Health Nurse and one Community Health Nurse to attend the PRI (Patient Review Instrument) and Screen Training at the New York State Nurses Association in Latham, New York on November 4, 2010. She noted it was necessary to have certified staff members to provide this service which was required for placement in nursing homes and other care facilities. She stated the cost of the training was \$228 per employee; however, she continued, the fee charged for providing the service was \$170 per skilled nursing visit.

Motion was made by Mr. Loeb, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve attendance at the PRI and Screen Training as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer reported the Health Services Department was working with Ms. Nenninger to update the Corporate Compliance Policy and noted that a draft copy was included in the agenda packet. She explained in order to receive Medicaid funds it was a requirement to develop, implement and maintain a program, the purpose of which was to detect fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicaid Program. She stated a request would be presented at the next Committee meeting to adopt the policy and she noted the current Corporate Compliance Policy was available on the Health Services Department landing page of the Warren County website. Mr. Dusek stated it was necessary to designate a Compliance Officer for the Department and Ms. Auer replied that Sharon Schaldone, Assistant Director of Home Care Division, and Ginelle Jones, Assistant Director of Public Health Division, were the Compliance Officers for their respective Divisions and she was the Compliance Officer for the Department.

Ms. Auer pointed out that a report on monthly Emergency Preparedness activities was included in the agenda packet.

Pertaining to the Point of Care Project, Tammie DeLorenzo, Clinical and Fiscal Informatics Coordinator, requested to close Capital Project No. H282.9550 280, Point of Care (Health Services), with an approximate balance of \$45,891.83. She noted the remaining balance accounted for 8% of the total amount of the Capital Project. She added a great deal of effort was put towards ensuring the best price was obtained for all equipment which resulted in less funds being expended.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to close the Capital Project as outlined and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Concerning the Expenditures, Revenues, Overtime and Per Diem Usage, Tawn Driscoll, Fiscal Manager, stated the report represented \$32,350 accrued from the WIC (Women, Infants and Child) Program for July and \$80,752.79 accrued from the Bioterrorism Grant for July 1, 2010 through August 9, 2010. She advised they were currently closing the August billings for the CHHA (Certified Home Health Agency), LTC (Long Term Care) and MCH (Maternal Child Health) Programs. Ms. Driscoll announced they had received notification from the State that the EI (Early Intervention) Program, for which they billed the administrative and transportation portion to the DSS at 50%, should be billed at 100% for children on Medicaid. She said a recalculation had determined that the Department would receive approximately \$57,000 in additional funds from the State.

Ms. Driscoll reviewed the Salary Comparison for 2009 versus 2010 and noted that payroll was currently within budget. She added that both overtime and part-time salaries had decreased from 2009. She advised part-time salaries would increase next month due to the Seasonal Flu Clinics. Mr. Loeb asked if the revenues listed were derived from the nurses and Ms. Driscoll responded it represented revenue from all of the programs in the Department. Ms. Driscoll noted revenue for the Department was difficult to understand as the Preschool year began in July but could not be billed until the following May. Brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Auer pointed out that a Report on Free and Reduced Care, a schedule of the 2010 Seasonal Flu & Pneumonia Vaccine Clinics and a schedule of the Rabies Clinics for 2010 were included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Thomas commended the Department on their efforts in instituting the Point of Care Project. He said the Project made the Department more efficient and decreased the billing cycle.

As there was no further business to come before the Health Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist